

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of July 16, 2003, claims 1, 7 and 18 are amended, and claims 6 and 23 are cancelled. In addition, claims 12-17, directed to the non-elected invention, are cancelled. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 18-22 are now active in this application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS IN OFFICIAL ACTION OF JULY 16, 2003

I. Claims 1-5, 8-10 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson (USPN 6,222,538).

II. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Tsukahara (USPN 6,016,407).

III. The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 7 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

IV. This amendment cancels claims 6 and 23, amends independent claim 1 include the limitation of dependent claim 6, amends claim 7 to depend from amended independent claim 1, and amends independent claim 18 to include the limitation of dependent claim 23. Consequently, amended independent claims 1 and 18, as well as dependent claims 2-5, 7-11 and 19-22, are believed to be allowable.

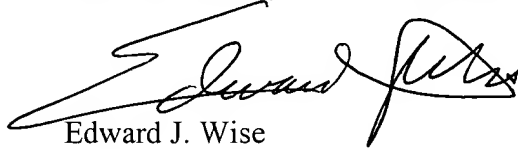
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Wise", is written over the printed name.

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